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Maine Writers Correspondence

Maine State Library Special Collections

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10-31-2014

# Alfred Williams Anthony Correspondence

Alfred Williams Anthony 1860-1939

Maine State Library

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ANTHONY, Alfred Williams

Providence, R.I.

Jan. 13, 1860

March 15, 1937

Mr. Alfred Williams Anthony  
40 Mountain Avenue  
Lewiston, Maine

Dear Mr. Anthony:

It is with regret that we notice the Maine Author Collection has no copy of your interesting and splendidly written book, BATES COLLEGE AND ITS BACKGROUND, a copy of which is, of course, in the general lending section of the library.

The Maine Author Collection was started some years ago, and includes several hundred inscribed presentation volumes written by people born in or connected with Maine. Certainly, in your long and successful years in this state, you can be considered a Maine author. These books are for exhibit purposes only, and it can readily be seen that their value increases steadily. In future years the collection will afford to students a rich background of Maine's contribution to history and literature.

For that reason, we want to make the collection as complete as possible, and we hope that you will want to inscribe for us a copy of BATES COLLEGE AND ITS BACKGROUND. We assure you that we will welcome the book, and be delighted to add it to our shelves of the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

ALFRED WILLIAMS ANTHONY  
40 MOUNTAIN AVENUE  
LEWISTON MAINE

March 25, 1937

Miss Hilda McLeod,  
Secretary of Maine State Library,  
Augusta,

Dear Madam,-

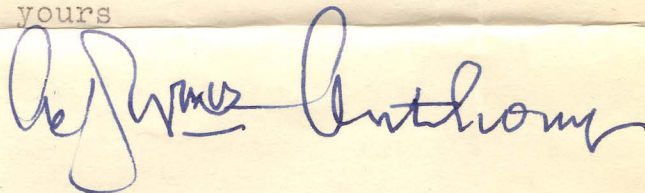
Puzzled at first by the excess of commendation in your gracious letter of the 15th inst<sup>ant</sup>, I have delayed a little in replying.

Your phrase "interesting and splendidly written" I had no thought of applying to the book, "Bates College and its Background: a Review of Origins and Causes".

Nor would I have claimed that "long and successful years" entitled me to representations among the authors of Maine. Still less could I at once quite see how books kept "for exhibit purposes only" would steadily increase in value.

But, if it be a genuine wish that I should add this volume to your collection, I willingly, and herewith, present it.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alfred Williams Anthony". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

March 26, 1937

Dr. Alfred Williams Anthony  
40 Mountain Avenue  
Lewiston, Maine

Dear Dr. Anthony:

Your charming modesty has led you, we believe, to misunderstand our motive and sincere appreciation for your work which we tried to express in our recent letter.

Of course the fifty-two years that Who's Who in America assures us you have spent in Maine may not be worthy of our adjective "long," but surely it is long enough for you to have learned Maine nature thoroughly, and to forgive us what may have seemed to you an "excess of commendation."

We observe that our explanation of the purpose of the Maine Author Collection was not clearly explained. The books increase in value because they are as complete a set, we believe, of the work of Maine authors as is in existence anywhere. Many of them are out of print and entirely unobtainable now. Fifty or a hundred years from today, more than a few of our Maine writers will have assumed an enviable reputation, undoubtedly, and the opportunities offered for research by such an intact and interestingly inscribed collection can be readily appreciated by such a scholar as your book proves you to be.

At any rate, we are very grateful to you for your kindness in helping us to build this collection into an even more interesting one, and we send you our thanks for the inscribed copy of BATES COLLEGE AND ITS BACKGROUND, which we are adding with great pleasure to the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

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SECRETARY